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House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. WICKER].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 2, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable ROGER F. WICKER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] for 5 minutes.

TRAGEDY IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to be able to offer on behalf of the constituents of the 18th Congressional District my deepest sympathy to the citizens, and families, and victims, adults and children, of the tragedy in Oklahoma City. I watched as the outpouring of love of Americans and aid from across this Nation and

across the world poured into that great city. But, more importantly, I watched as the valor of each individual citizen was highlighted as each came to the cause and the crisis of the people. I watched the laws of this land be in place. I watched the Constitution remain stable during this very severe crisis. I heard the debate as people wanted, most of all, for the safety and security of those that were there and the immediate assistance to those people. It gave me comfort, one, that Americans will always rise to the aid of their fellow neighbors, and, two, that the Constitution is still very strong.

I rise, as well, however, to be able to ask that those who believe in the Constitution would recognize that, if they would oppose some of the actions and activities that we have heard occurring over these last couple of days, that they, too would speak up. If they are against hatred, hate mongering, if they are against intolerance, I would like to hear their voices as well, for it is important, as we do adhere to the laws of this land and as we accept the value of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, that, yes, we recognize all of us have such rights. It is important that America not coddle terrorists, be they domestic or international. It is important not to hear that the actor or alleged actor in this incident is like the boy next door. If the facts are true, the actor is a murderer, plain and simple.

And so I support and appreciate the leadership of President Clinton in light of the fact that he has struck a balance, one of applauding the valor of citizens in Oklahoma City and appreciating the democracy of this Nation, but yet challenging those Americans who would have normally kept silent on the hatred that is violating this Nation. It is time to stand up and speak up.

And those of us in Congress must make a commitment to you, as Ameri-

cans, that, one, we will act in a bipartisan manner, particularly myself as a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, to accept, and respond, and affirm your constitutional rights, but at the same time enhance your quality of life, and protect you. And to those Federal employees let me say, "Thank you so very much for, yes, you have gone beyond the measure of duty. All over this Nation you serve Americans, and you served them with good cheer, and love, and competence and excellence. Many of them lost their life in Oklahoma City. Many of you are saddened by the tragedy. Many of my district were forced to evacuate their building over the last week or so because of bomb threats in the city of Houston, but you have kept the faith, you have remained strong, and so I salute you."

My commitment is to work ever hard protecting the Constitution with my colleagues, but yet responding to terrorists wherever they may be and acknowledging that they, too, must come to justice, not coddled, but standing up before the courts of law and accepting whatever charges are being made effectively, forcefully, and with the full impact of the law. My hat is off to those in Oklahoma City, my prayers remain with them, and my commitment is that we must make this country a just country, a fair country, an equal country, but certainly a safe country under the laws of the land and keeping in mind the strength of the Constitution of the United States of America.

CONTEMPLATING THE OKLAHOMA CITY TRAGEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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